

2013 Legislative Priorities

Greater Accountability of Neighborhood Discretionary Funds

In an effort to increase accountability, I plan to support additional restrictions on the way discretionary funds are spent to insure that tax payers' dollars are being spent in a more responsible manner. In my office, allocation of capital infrastructure and neighborhood development funds will be focused on infrastructure improvements. Further, I have been selected to serve on the Appropriations, Neighborhood Discretionary Funds, and Capital Infrastructure Funds Committee where I will have a role in questioning the appropriate use of tax payer dollars. A role I look forward to take on.

Pension Reform

The current pension system is unsustainable and creates a fiscal problem for local governments responsible for pension obligations. As reported in the Courier Journal, city officials say pension costs eat up about 15 percent of Louisville's general fund budget, up from 6 percent seven years ago, and Louisville spends about \$72 million on pensions annually, cutting into other key services. According to the Pew Center Study, Louisville's unfunded pension liability is \$737 million (Courier Journal, Reporter Mike Wynn, 1/15/13). I plan to spend this year advocating for Pension Reform with the Kentucky General Assembly.

Local Option Sales Tax

The local option sales tax has been proposed as a way to fund large scale projects by increasing the sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent in Jefferson County. The voters of Louisville would have to vote to raise the tax. However, I remain concerned that the tax would make Louisville less competitive or attractive to job creators. I am also concerned that a new tax could be used to start unsustainable projects while also placing undue hardships on seniors and those on a fixed income.

Vacant and Abandoned Properties

Vacant and Abandoned properties are becoming an ever increasing problem for all areas of Metro Louisville where tax dollars are being used to maintain properties and unpaid tax liens takes away funding for everyday necessary functions of government. I will work with city officials and other entities to expedite the process of turning these homes around quickly, returning them to the private market, and removing the undue liability from Louisville Metro Government.